



The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited
Hasely Crawford Curation Launch
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Delivered by Mr. Mark Loquan, President, NGC

(SALUTATIONS)

GOOD EVENING. ON BEHALF OF NGC I AM DELIGHTED TO ADDRESS YOU ON THE LAUNCH OF OUR NATIONAL HEROES PROJECT. AS A STATE ENTITY AND GOOD CORPORATE CITIZEN, NGC HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE PRESERVATION OF OUR NATIONAL IDENTITY AND HERITAGE, BUILT A STRONG CULTURAL IDENTITY AND IMPACTED MANY COMMUNITIES THROUGH VARYING INITIATIVES, WITH A VIEW TO BUILDING VALUE FOR THE PEOPLE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

A HERO IS SOMEONE WHO INSPIRES, WHO IS A ROLE MODEL, WHO HAS ACHIEVED SOMETHING GREAT, WHOSE BEHAVIOUR WE ENDEAVOUR TO EMULATE. HOWEVER, THERE IS THE *NATIONAL* HERO – A DIFFERENT CATEGORY OF INDIVIDUAL WHO GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND. SUCH AN INDIVIDUAL IS SOMEONE WHO HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY, AND REPRESENTS ALL OF US.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR GREATEST WEALTH IS OUR PEOPLE. TO KNOW OUR HEROES IS TO KNOW OURSELVES: OUR VALUES, OUR COLLECTIVE HISTORY, WHO WE ARE, AND WHAT MAKES US AS TRINBAGONIANS, GREAT. RECOGNISING OUR HEROES IS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF WHO WE ARE AS A PEOPLE. WE ARE NOT WAITING FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD TO VALIDATE OUR HEROES, OR UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE. THIS IS THE REASON FOR THE NGC NATIONAL HEROES PROJECT.

THIS PROJECT PROVIDES US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH OUR NATIONAL HEROES HAVE MADE TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPACT OF THEIR LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS ON OUR NATIONAL LANDSCAPE. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S SOCIAL FABRIC HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY EXEMPLARS IN THE FIELD OF SPORT; EDUCATION; ARTS AND CULTURE.

THESE NATIONALS, WHO HAVE INCREASED THE VISIBILITY AND PRESTIGE OF THE COUNTRY AT BOTH THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS, SOMETIMES REMAIN LARGELY UNRECOGNIZED, AND IN OTHER CASES, WHERE THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE NOTED, THE DETAILS OF THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES REMAIN RELATIVELY UNKNOWN.

TODAY, THERE IS A LACK OF POSITIVE ROLE MODELS TO INSPIRE THE YOUTH OF OUR NATION. NGC, AS A LEADER AND INNOVATOR IN THE FIELD OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, IS HONOURED TO SPEARHEAD A SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMME OF SOCIAL INTERVENTION THAT CELEBRATES OUR NATIONAL HEROES AND HIGHLIGHTS POSITIVE ROLE MODELS FOR OUR YOUTH. OUR YOUNGER GENERATION WILL KNOW OF OUR NATIONAL HEROES' ACHIEVEMENTS AND THEY WILL HAVE MODELS TO EMULATE THEIR HEROES' BEHAVIOURS. THE PROJECT'S ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO PRESERVE AND HONOUR OUR NATIONAL LEGACY, DISSEMINATE POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES AND MESSAGES OF OUR NATIONAL HEROES AND THEREBY ENCOURAGE PRIDE IN OUR ACCOMPLISHMENT, NATIONAL UNITY AND SOCIAL COHESION.

NGC HAS COMMITTED TO MAKE THIS AN ANNUAL PROJECT. THE PROJECT WILL IN THE FUTURE SEEK TO RECOGNISE OTHER GREAT NATIONAL ICONS, TO ENSURE THAT OUR PEOPLE ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND PROUD OF CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THESE INDIVIDUALS. THE PROJECT INVOLVES A CURATION AND EXHIBITION OF THE LIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR INDIGENOUS HEROES, CHRONICLED AND PRESERVED, AND

FROM WHICH WE CAN PRODUCE BIOGRAPHIES OF THEIR LIVES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR SOCIETY. THE LEGACIES OF THESE NATIONAL HEROES WILL LIVE ON AND BE FILTERED INTO OUR SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO OUR HEROES' STORIES.

WE WILL ALSO BE ENCOURAGING EMPLOYEES TO VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME AND EFFORT TO THE SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT BY WAY OF DISTRIBUTION OF THE PUBLICATIONS TO SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES. IN THIS WAY, EMPLOYEES BECOME INVOLVED IN OUR MISSION TO ENRICH THE NATION ABOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR NATIONAL ICONS.

THIS EVENING WE ARE CELEBRATING HASELY CRAWFORD AS A NATIONAL HERO. NGC BELIEVES THAT THE LAUNCH OF AN EXHIBIT THAT FORMALLY CHRONICLES HIS OLYMPIC SUCCESS WILL ENCOURAGE PUBLIC DISCOURSE AND EDUCATION AROUND HONOURING OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE HEROES.

WE AT NGC HOLD HASELY NEAR AND DEAR TO OUR HEARTS. HE JOINED NGC IN 1994 AND AS THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS, HE IMPLEMENTED, MANAGED AND SUPPORTED A WIDE RANGE OF INITIATIVES. HE BROUGHT TO THE TABLE A LEVEL OF PROMINENCE FOR OUR FLEDGLING COMMUNITY PROGRAMME BY VIRTUE OF HIS BEING A NATIONAL ICON.

UNDER HIS PURVIEW AS HEAD, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, WE ADOPTED A MORE STRUCTURED AND COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP COMMUNITIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE IMPACTED BY NGC'S OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. WE OFFERED A COASTAL VILLAGES PROGRAMME AND ASSISTANCE FOR FISHER FOLK.

WE LAUNCHED A HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME – AIMED AT IMPROVING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF CITIZENS THROUGH EDUCATION, TRAINING,

EMPLOYMENT AND MICRO-ENTERPRISE SUPPORT WHICH INVOLVED PARTNERSHIPS WITH SERVOL, AND A BURSARY PROGRAMME FOR TERTIARY AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

WE SOUGHT TO PROVIDE OR ENHANCE THE SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN COMMUNITIES THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TIED INTO OUR PIPELINE EXPANSION PROJECTS. WITH HASELY, WE DEVELOPED THE NGC RIGHT ON TRACK PROGRAMME – WHICH IS A SCIENCE-BASED PROGRAMME AIMED AT DEVELOPING THE ATHLETIC SKILLS OF CHILDREN IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THIS IS BY NO MEANS AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST. FOR ALL THAT HE HAS DONE AS AN EMPLOYEE AND AS A SPORTSMAN HE IS MOST DESERVING OF THIS HONOUR AND RECOGNITION.

THIS AND FUTURE RECOGNITION WILL ENTAIL:

CURATION AND EXHIBITION OF THE LIVES OF HEROES. A VIRTUAL EXHIBIT THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE 24/7 THEREAFTER. BECAUSE HEROES ARE FOUND IN EVERY FIELD OF ENDEAVOUR, THE CURATION AND EXHIBITION OF SUBSEQUENT ICONS WILL BE APPROACHED DIFFERENTLY BUT MADE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING VIA A VARIETY OF MEDIA.

A PUBLICATION BASED ON THIS EXHIBITION - THESE PUBLICATIONS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS AND ALLOW THE KNOWLEDGE TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE EDUCATION SYSTEM. IT WILL ALSO ALLOW FOR THIS CONTENT TO BE SYSTEMATICALLY ACCESSIBLE AT SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES AND UNIVERSITIES.

INDEED, HASELY HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT AND LASTING CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEOPLE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND HAS A LEGACY THAT WILL STAND THE TEST OF TIME. HASELY HAS NAME RECOGNITION AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION – WHO DOES NOT KNOW OF THE HASELY CRAWFORD STADIUM IN THE HEART OF OUR CAPITAL? DO WE

RECALL THAT UPON RETURNING HOME, A JET WAS NAMED AFTER HIM? DURING HIS REIGN AS THE 100-METRE OLYMPIC CHAMPION, HE ALSO APPEARED ON POSTAGE STAMPS.

IN 1978, HE WAS AWARDED TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S HIGHEST HONOUR, THE TRINITY CROSS. IN 2010, HASELY WAS APPOINTED AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR SPORT FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND CONTINUES TO SERVE THE COUNTRY IN MANY WAYS. FOR ALL THE VALUE YOU HAVE ADDED TO NGC AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR LEGACY WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. YOU ARE TRULY A LIVING LEGEND.

WE WISH TO THANK UWI FOR ITS INVALUABLE SUPPORT AND HARD WORK IN BRINGING THIS FIRST INSTALMENT OF THE NATIONAL HEROES PROJECT TO FRUITION. WE ARE VERY PROUD TO SPONSOR A PROJECT SUCH AS THIS AND INVITE OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT. RECOGNISING OUR NATIONAL HEROES PRESENTS ANOTHER FACET OF OUR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND AS WE CELEBRATE IN AUGUST OUR 55TH ANNIVERSARY AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION, IT BECOMES INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT THAT WE IMMORTALIZE OUR HEROES FOR OUR CHILDREN.

I THANK YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.